FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
17-481	ORLEANS		EAS.772

Town/City: Town of Eastham

Place: *(neighborhood or village)*:
Eastham Center

Address: 310 Herring Brook Road

Historic Name: Drowns – McMorrow Cottage

Uses: Present: single-family residence

Original: single-family residence

Date of Construction: 1925-32

Source: deeds

Style/Form: Summer Cottage

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:
Foundation: concrete block

Wall/Trim: wood shingle/wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations *(with dates)*:
Wing added north side, mid-20th c.

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

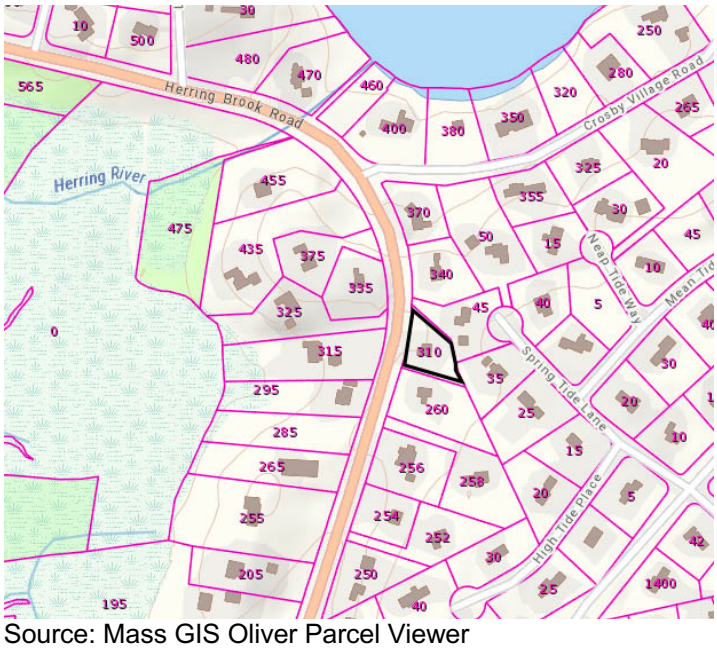
Acreage: 0.73

Setting: The cottage is situated in a wooded section south of the Great Pond in an area subdivided in the 20th century for residential development.

Photograph

View from SW.

Locus Map (north at top)



Source: Mass GIS Oliver Parcel Viewer

Recorded by: Kathryn Grover & Neil Larson
Larson Fisher Associates

Organization: Eastham Historical Commission

Date: June 2020

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Drowns – McMorrow Cottage, built ca. 1932, is a one-story wood frame seasonal dwelling with a rectangular plan and gable roof. It has a three-bay center-entrance façade concealed within a screened porch with shingled kneewalls on three sides. A brick chimney is engaged to the southerly end with a window in front and a smaller one behind, probably for a kitchen. A one-story wing with a lower roof ridge has been added to the northerly end. It has paired windows on the front and two windows on the northerly end.

The cottage is situated on a small parcel subdivided from a larger property when cottage development occurred in the early 20th century. It surrounded by an open yard shaded by mature pine and deciduous trees.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

No house appears on the site of 310 Herring Brook Road on Eastham maps through 1910, and when the parcel was sold in 1925, the deed does not mention buildings. In February 1925 Eastham native Chester F. Horton, who managed the Brighton Abattoir and had lived in Reading since about 1917, sold four acres to Samuel F. Doane of Brockton.[1] In 1906 Horton had acquired the parcel and three others from Wilbur S. Cole, who was then living temporarily, for his health, in Topeka, Kansas, and died there in October 1910.[2] When Samuel F. Doane sold the parcel in 1932, a house was standing on the lot.

Born in Brockton in 1896, Samuel Frederick Doane (1896-1949) was the son of Samuel H. Doane (1866-1952) and his wife Bertha B. Bryant, a native of Stoughton whom he married in 1895. He was then working as a shipper for a company that made elastic webbing. Born in Eastham, Samuel H. Doane was the son of mariner Samuel Doane and his wife Ruth A. Mayo Doane, who moved from Eastham to Boston between 1870 and 1880. The family lived in Avon in 1900 and had moved to Brockton by 1910. In 1920 Samuel H. Doane was foreman at Everlastic Company, probably at its plant in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, and son Samuel F. was then an apprentice at a wholesale beef company. In 1926 he married Ruth Phyllis Lagerstedt, the daughter of Swedish immigrants; her father Alfred was a shoe factory stitcher in Brockton.

Samuel F. Doane probably built both 310 Herring Brook Road and the house next south of it, 260 Herring Brook Road, and sold a half-share in the four-acre parcel in 1925 to William D. Burke of Brockton. In 1932 Doane sold his share in 310 Herring Brook Road to Burke, who sold it the same day to Harry Wesley Drowns and his wife Edith; the Doanes retained the 260 Herring Brook Road property.[3] Drowns was the son of barber Henry G. Drowns, who had emigrated from St. John, Newfoundland, to Brockton by 1894, when he married Mamie Peterson. H. Wesley Drowns was a shoe factory stock clerk living in his parents' Brockton household in 1920, and in 1923 he married Edith Corrine Morrill, a native of Brockton working as a stenographer in East Bridgewater; her mother Agnes lived in Osterville.

The Drownses used 310 Herring Brook Road as a summer home. Drowns worked as a market supply salesman in Brockton and New Bedford and was a quartermaster in the Naval Reserve from 1917 to 1927. He and his wife owned 310 Herring Brook Road until February 1960, when they sold it to John P. and Nancy K. McMorrow of Sherborn, later of Holliston.[4] John Palmer McMorrow was born in Wellesley in 1926 and was a radio man gunner in the Navy during World War II. After the war he entered Boston University's school of business administration and graduated in 1950. He worked in insurance and estate planning and married Nancy Knodell about the time they acquired 310 Herring Brook Road. John P. McMorrow died in May 2012, and the

[1] Chester F. Horton to Samuel Doane, Brockton, 20 February 1925, BCD 417:20.
[2] Wilber S. Cole, Eastham but now Topeka KS, to Chester F. Horton, 15 September 1906, BCD 247:587. The house at 1800 Bridge Road was among the four parcels Horton acquired from Cole, all part of the land formerly owned by Cole's grandfather Joshua Cole (1804-72).
[3] Samuel Doane to William D. Burke, 24 February 1925, BCD 417:21; Samuel Doane to William D. Burke, Brockton, 12 May 1932, BCD 493:280; William D. Burke, Brockton, to H. Wesley Drowns and Edith C. Drowns, Brockton, 12 May 1932, BCD 493:280.
[4] William D. Burke, Brockton, to H. Wesley Drowns and Edith C. Drowns, Brockton, 12 May 1932, BCD 493:280.

Eastham property passed to his widow and son Jeffrey Palmer McMorrow as trustees. In 2013 they transferred the property to Jeffrey P. McMorrow and his married sister Jane M. Ray.[5]

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MAPS
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[5] H. Welsey Drowns and Edith C. Drowns, Brockton, to John and Nancy K. McMorrow, Sherborn, 29 February 1960, BCD 1071:161; Deed of Distribution, 9 August 2013, BCD 17718:174; Nancy K. McMorrow and Jeffrey P. McMorrow, trustees John P. McMorrow Trust, and Nancy K. McMorrow, South Orleans, to Jeffrey P. McMorrow, Orleans, and Jane M. Ray, Fredericksburg VA, 9 August 2013, BCD 27718:176. The 310 Herring Brook Road parcel is shown peripherally, without the house, on "Plan of Land in Eastham," 2 June 1976, LCP 37788-A, and "Subdivision Plan of Land in Eastham," 12 January 1978, LCP 37788-B.

PHOTOGRAPHS
(credit Larson Fisher Associates, 2019 unless otherwise noted)

View from NW.